

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte al Application No
PCT/IB2004/003599

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G12B21/02 G12B21/08 G01B7/34 G01B11/30 G01B5/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G12B G01B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 245 863 A (OKADA TAKAO ET AL) 21 September 1993 (1993-09-21) abstract; figures 1,7,9 column 2, lines 63-66 column 4, lines 54-56	1-7
X	VIANI M B ET AL: "SMALL CANTILEVERS FOR FORCE SPECTROSCOPY OF SINGLE MOLECULES" JOURNAL OF APPLIED PHYSICS, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS. NEW YORK, US, vol. 86, no. 4, 15 August 1999 (1999-08-15), pages 2258-2262, XP000934881 ISSN: 0021-8979 abstract; figures 1,2 page 2258, column 1, lines 29-31 page 2259, column 1, lines 28-30 page 2259, column 2, lines 3-13	1-7

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 March 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/03/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Popovici, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2004/003599

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 02/080186 A (HOH JAN H ;UNIV JOHNS HOPKINS (US)) 10 October 2002 (2002-10-10) page 3, lines 15-23; figures 2B,2C,2D,2E page 7, line 15 - page 8, line 2 page 12, lines 15-21 page 20, lines 8-20 page 30, lines 17-23	1,2,5
A	----- WALTERS D A ET AL: "ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPY USING SMALL CANTILEVERS" PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPIE, SPIE, BELLINGHAM, VA, US, vol. 3009, 1997, pages 43-47, XP001150337 ISSN: 0277-786X the whole document	1
A	----- KIKUKAWA A ET AL: "IN-LINE OPTICAL LEVER SYSTEM FOR ULTRASMALL CANTILEVER DISPLACEMENT DETECTION" JAPANESE JOURNAL OF APPLIED PHYSICS, PUBLICATION OFFICE JAPANESE JOURNAL OF APPLIED PHYSICS. TOKYO, JP, vol. 39, no. 4A, PART 1, 1 April 2000 (2000-04-01), pages 1885-1889, XP001014943 ISSN: 0021-4922 the whole document	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2004/003599

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5245863	A	21-09-1993	JP	4070506 A	05-03-1992
			JP	2945725 B2	06-09-1999
			JP	4077611 A	11-03-1992
			DE	4122697 A1	16-01-1992
			US	5394741 A	07-03-1995
WO 02080186	A	10-10-2002	WO	02080186 A1	10-10-2002
			US	2005011256 A1	20-01-2005